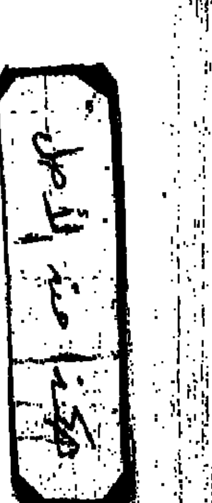


The German Tribune

Hamburg, 15 March 1987
Twenty-sixth year - No. 1266 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Gorbachov's message for Europe a dangerous, phoney metaphor

Western Europe gazes as if mesmerised at Mr Gorbachov's Russia. Hopes of a major change in the East preoccupy public interest so much that the deterioration in ties between Europe and the United States is being largely overlooked.

That may be because disputes between the Western allies are so regular. But some observers also feel the Atlantic pact is increasingly unattractive: an edifice that shows clear signs of wear and tear.

Mr Gorbachov has shown propaganda acumen in launching his views on "a common European house" at this stage.

This metaphor, viewed approvingly to critically by Foreign Minister Genscher and the head of state, Richard von Weizsäcker, envelops a dangerous political message.

Talk in Moscow of Europe as a "common house" suggests to Western Europe distance from the United States and proximity to to the Soviet Union.

The "flat-sharing" aspect of the "common house" idea may not be dangerous; the "common destiny" implication is more insidious.

The phoney character of the message is evident when the metaphor is taken at face value.

Europe is first and foremost a plot of real estate subdivided by barbed wire, shoot-on-sight borders and, in Berlin, a wall.

Leaving aside a number of smaller houses that need no further consideration, one large building stands on each plot.

Frankfurter Allgemeine

In the West it is the European Community, a condominium apartment block that may not yet have been completed but consists of such comfortably appointed homes that more and more people are interested in buying.

Disputes occur at assemblies of apartment-owners in the block, each with equal rights, but no-one is seriously considering either moving out or selling.

The other large building is on the East Bloc's plot.

It was built 40 years ago by principals in Moscow after the previous occupiers had been evicted.

They were then forced to take up residence in the new building as tenants and have since, to varying degrees, come to terms with their lot.

None of them is able to move. The landlord has issued strict instructions and keeps a careful eye on what his tenants get up to.

When something happens that is not to his liking he simply dispossesses tenants without so much as a by your leave and in accordance with his own ideas on order.

How, in these circumstances, can there possibly be any serious talk of plans for a "common house"? The question is: what conceivable, theoretical benefit could owners in the Western condominium hope to derive from any such plans as long as the Eastern landlord refuses to remove the barbed wire that surrounds his plot? Must he not first introduce rules and regulations that take occupiers' rights into account? Must he not enable families divided by the wall built between the properties to be reunited?

Yet a number of Western Europeans, and West Germans too, are fascinated by this idea of a "common house" despite the anomalies that come to mind as soon as closer attention is paid to the metaphor.

The only possible explanation for *their interest is that their memories are* short.

They seem to have forgotten the debt of gratitude they owe their friendly world policeman on the other side of the Atlantic, the United States.

Had it not been for the United States they would probably not have been in a position to set up a peaceful and prosperous communal household.

Their part of the European real estate might well have been taken over by the East too.

Basically there has been no change in this state of affairs.

So the growing lack of interest in the Western alliance must be taken most seriously.

In the United States there is a growing inclination to arrive at important decisions unilaterally rather than go to the trouble of consulting America's European allies, who invariably raise objections and usually fail to agree among themselves.

Instead, they are presented with *faits accomplis*.

In Europe lack of interest is apparent in demands for "self-assertion" or even "Europeanisation" of Europe.

There could be no real objection to either if only a consolidation and acceleration of European Community integration were at issue.

But the snail's pace at which security policy cooperation is progressing in Western Europe is enough to shatter illusions of any viable alternative to the presence of US troops in Europe arising in the foreseeable future.

Nor, for that matter, is there any likelihood of the US nuclear shield that protects America's European allies becoming superfluous.

One is bound to suspect that some of those who advocate "Europeanisation" of Europe have something else in mind.

Figments of the imagination lately associated with the concept of Central Europe may have a historic or cultural background but politically they can lead to nothing but a dead end.

A number of those who have hopefully and with every good will set out in this direction will one day find themselves in the ante-chamber of Mr Gorbachov's "European house."

Günther Nonnenmacher
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 March 1987)

IN THIS ISSUE



King Hussein in Bonn
Jordan's King Hussein (right) and President von Weizsäcker meet schoolchildren after the king's official welcome to Villa Hammerschmidt, Bonn, the official residence of the President. (Photo: AP)



A Berlin Affair
Berlin's 750th anniversary this year was discussed when Mayor Eberhard Diepgen (right), met President Reagan in Washington. Diepgen said the State Department was not against his visiting East Berlin during the year. (Photo: AP)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Gorbachov steps in and plays Irangate card in bid for an arms deal



Mr Gorbachov has outdone himself yet again in reopening the negotiating package he packed so tightly at the Reykjavik summit six months ago.

As an agreement on medium-range missiles becomes a distinct possibility queries, opportunities and uncertainties tumble simultaneously into the diplomatic bag.

The first question is why Moscow has changed its mind and delinked INF reduction and SDI.

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher may have attributed the Kremlin's heeding the Western appeal to untie the strings of the package to "numerous talks with German officials," but the decisive prompting is sure not to have come from Bonn.

Developments in Washington clinched matters. President Reagan's leadership has been so hard-hit by the Irangate affair that on his own all he can still manage is to scrap existing arms control agreements, such as last year's decision to drop out of Salt 2 and the current attempt to reinterpret the ABM Treaty as posing no obstacle to SDI tests.

He needs external allies if he is to achieve anything positive. He can no longer muster the strength on his own, and time is growing short.

Mr Gorbachov has set his cap at the opportunity of coming to terms with Washington before the US Presidential election campaign gets under way in earnest.

The zero option is best suited, no longer having been the subject of controversy between the superpowers since Reykjavik, especially as the Soviet leader has met Western wishes on all major points.

Even with his present hard-hit reputation President Reagan could steer a zero option agreement through his administration and Congress. And he could well do with a foreign policy success.

Mr Gorbachov's main aim is not, of course, to do the man in the Oval Office a good turn. He hopes that agreement on Pershings, cruise missiles and SS-20s will lay the groundwork for a more comprehensive treaty — and if not with Mr Reagan, then with his successor at the White House.

A limited success in the months ahead would give arms control a fresh boost and also strengthen Western resistance to mutilation of the ABM Treaty.

Mr Gorbachov has no better card in his hand; he has now led it. The deadlock in the game of missile chess has been ended.

The second question is how the West is to respond. Nato has said since 1981 that Pershing 2 and cruise missiles (316 of a proposed 576 of which have so far been installed) would be withdrawn from Western Europe as soon as the Soviet SS-20s (about 440, each with three warheads) were pulled out.

Western terms would be met even if 100 SS-20s were to remain stationed in Soviet Asia, with America being entitled in return to station 100 Pershings in US territory.

This applies in equal measure to the Western demand for a separate agreement on medium-range missiles.

The Soviet Union was almost ready to meet this demand at one stage prior to the Reykjavik summit.

In Reykjavik the Russians then clapped themselves in irons, saying progress on Euro-missiles was subject to a compromise being reached on SDI. The Soviet Union has now freed itself from its fetters and Mr Gorbachov has announced, "in the name of the Soviet leadership," that the Reykjavik linkage is no longer to apply.

So the Soviet leadership has committed itself. The West has long done so. The treaty text must now be negotiated and its terms worked out in detail.

A number of problems are sure to arise. In what time are the treaty's provisions to be carried out? What kinds of inspection and control are needed so that everyone can sleep soundly, reassured that no-one is cheating?

Is only the destruction of existing missiles and warheads to be supervised or are their production facilities to be checked too?

Yet, given goodwill, a treaty could be signed within six weeks and ratified by the end of the year.

The third question is the most difficult. What will be the consequences of the zero option for European security?

Outgoing Nato supreme commander in Europe General Bernard Rogers feels the pact will then be in a "devilishly difficult position."

Henry Kissinger sees the withdrawal of medium-range missiles from Europe as a "unilateral Western concession."

France, a close ally of Bonn's and itself a nuclear power, has visions of a "denuclearisation of Western Europe."

Some of these misgivings are doubtless due to the widespread Western inclination to view Soviet willingness to oblige on Western demands as doubly suspicious.

Even so, what benefit does the West stand to derive from the zero option? This question remains, and is as justified as ever.

The Soviet leader's aim, in seeking the "total liberation of Europe from nuclear arms," as the Moscow declaration puts it, is possibly to pursue a new policy while retaining other, longstanding Soviet objectives.

If Soviet strategy were to succeed and Nato were one day to lack nuclear weapons ready for use in Europe, US nuclear backing for European security might be called into question.

The war in Europe that has for so long been inconceivable would then be possible again because the basic tenet of nuclear deterrence — that an aggressor must run the risk of destruction — would have ceased to apply.

Western Europe will, of course, be far from unarmed in the nuclear sector even if a zero option in the medium-range missile sector is negotiated.

Besides, Mr Gorbachov has confirmed that the Soviet Union is prepared to scrap short-range nuclear missiles based in the GDR and Czechoslovakia in response to Nato missile deployment.

The Kremlin is likewise prepared to embark on immediate negotiations about other short-range missiles that pose a threat mainly to the territory of the Federal Republic with a view to their "reduction and total elimination."

Nearly 5,000 tactical nuclear warheads are still stockpiled in Western Europe. US warships equipped with long-range nuclear missiles patrol European waters. They make up an impressive arsenal.

The trend toward denuclearisation must nonetheless be taken seriously. Even in speeches by politicians who ought to know better nuclear weapons are all too frequently described as the handiwork of the Devil rather than guarantors of a state of no-war in Europe, while their deterrent role is seen at best as an intermediate stage on the road to total disarmament.

Yet even when the last SS-20s and Pershing missiles have been scrapped Nato governments will still face the task of maintaining a deterrent in Europe.

So what must they do? Warning voices like that of General Rogers would prefer to make the zero option conditional on a simultaneous reduction in the large number of short-range Soviet missiles or even on a conventional balance being struck.

That might make military sense but politically it is shortsighted. Were Western European governments, after having clamoured for the zero option for so long, to try to impede it by stating fresh conditions, they would forfeit more credibility, especially at home, than the most they could hope to gain in military logic.

They must not be allowed to throw a spanner in the works of the Geneva talks.

Yet they must now more than ever, level-headedly and heedless of nuclear perfectionism, consider how deterrence is to be maintained, as a cornerstone of European security, in the new circum-

Continued on page 7

Nato divided in reaction to missile proposal

The prospect of having to forgo fissile material in missile warheads in *the foreseeable future seems first to* have "split atoms" in Nato military staffs, where views vary widely on the idea.

Within hours two of the most senior Nato generals responded in totally different ways to the latest Soviet proposal to scrap medium-range missiles in Europe.

The chairman of Nato's military committee, and in this capacity seniormost, General Wolfgang Altenburg of the German Bundeswehr, politically chose at Nato headquarters near Brussels to abide by the flexible response strategy and welcomed Mr Gorbachov's proposals.

Nato's Supreme Allied Commander Europe General Bernard Rogers went in contrast on to the defensive and warned against an "isolated zero option" that might leave the West at the mercy of Warsaw Pact short-range nuclear weapons and the East Bloc's conventional and chemical arms superiority.

The evident difference in viewpoints voiced by the two most senior Nato generals may come as a surprise, but both behaved much as might be expected of them and in keeping with their respective roles within the pact.

General Altenburg, whose chairmanship of the military committee is the more political appointment and whose task is to advise Nato governments, adopted a flexible, political response and advanced political arguments.

Nato can't refuse what it has long proposed and regularly demanded of the Russians now Mr Gorbachov has finally taken up the idea.

General Rogers in contrast, as commander in chief of all Nato forces, has the military task of ensuring the pact's deterrent capability and its ability to prevent war.

He doesn't think primarily in political terms; his is a military brief. In the circumstances, or so he feels, accepting a zero option solely for medium-range missiles would be jeopardising European security.

An isolated zero option, he argues, would throw Nato back to the position it was in back in 1979, before missile modernisation, when the Russians were clearly in the lead.

If all medium-range missiles were withdrawn "Europe would be in a worse position," General Rogers says. Warsaw Pact conventional and chemical superiority and the Soviet nine-to-one supremacy in short-range missiles would be more important again.

Most of these short-range nuclear missiles, capable of reaching targets between 150 and 1,000 km away, could knock out the very targets at which the SS-20s Moscow is now prepared to scrap are aimed.

Rogers' deputy, General Mack of the Bundeswehr, has repeatedly voiced this argument in recent months.

He and his chief have consistently added a second major reason why US intermediate nuclear forces are indispensable for deterrence in Europe.

The US missiles threaten targets in the Soviet Union from bases in Europe and thus directly link the United States with the security interests of its European allies.

Neither of the superpowers could hope, in the event of a conflict in Central Europe, to escape unscathed — and that is a major feature of deterrence and of the prevention of war in Europe.

A withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Europe would, or so European military strategists fear, not lead to greater security.

Instead, and in common with SDI, it would lead to "different zones of security" that would make it possible once more for the superpowers to wage war in Europe — because they themselves would no longer face the threat of destruction.

General Altenburg as chairman of the military committee is well aware of these risks. Yet he still feels Mr Gorba-

Continued on page 3

The German Tribune

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aussicht, D-2000 Hamburg 76, Tel. 22 85 1, Telex 02-14733

Editor-in-chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Simon Burnett. — Distribution manager: Georgine Picone

Advertising rates list No. 15
Annual subscription DM 45

Printed by CW Niemeyer-Druck, Hameln

Distributed in the USA by MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011

Articles in THE GERMAN TRIBUNE are translated from the original text and published by agreement with leading newspapers in the Federal Republic of Germany

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Battle continues: five State polls to be won or lost

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The general election in January has heralded a flurry of political activity rather than a time of consolidation.

There are to be five *Land* elections this year instead of the three scheduled before the general election.

The two new ones are in Hesse and Hamburg. In Hesse, the first (and only) coalition involving the Greens collapsed when the Social Democrat Premier, Holger Börner, dismissed the only Green in the Cabinet and promptly announced that he himself intended to retire.

In Hamburg, talks between the minority Social Democrat government and the Christian Democrats about a coalition have crumbled. The SPD has been in office with a minority since it lost its absolute majority in November last year.

Dates for the *Land* elections are: Hesse 5 April; Rhineland-Palatinate and, (probable date) Hamburg 17 May; Schleswig-Holstein and Bremen 13 September.

The political significance of these elections rivals the general election. *Land* elections have always been been significant in Federal terms.

The condition in which the general election left West German politics, however, makes this even more so this year.

The fate of the political parties in this year's elections is more closely linked with the trends revealed by the general election than ever before. A whole host of new questions has been raised.

Will the CDU/CSU and FDP really be the decisive political force in the Federal Republic of tomorrow?

Is collaboration between the SPD and the Greens an effective counterbalance?

Is there no alternative to the antagonism of conservative-cum-liberal cooperation on the one hand and cooperation between the SPD and Greens on the other?

And, finally, will a further weakening of the big and strengthening of the small parties more frequently impede workable government majorities in future?

In Hesse and Hamburg nothing less than two cornerstones of Social Democratic power are at stake. The SPD has been the dominant party in these two states since 1945.

A loss of power by the SPD would fundamentally reshape the party-political structure of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The loss of just a few seats by the CDU in the Rhineland-Palatinate and Schleswig-Holstein or a failure by the FDP to get the five per cent of the vote needed for parliamentary representation would pave the way for coalitions between the opposition SPD and Greens.

The SPD's leading candidates there, respectively Rudolf Scharping and Björn Engholm, have made it clear that they would not hesitate to seize such an opportunity with both hands.

A shift in power in just one of these *Länder* would suffice to upset existing majorities in the Bundesrat.

The legislative possibilities of the Bonn government might then be blocked by an SPD-led Bundesrat.

Even if *Land* elections do not have such far-reaching effects they will bring about a noticeable change in the party-political machinery of the Federal Republic.

Taking the outcome of the general election as a yardstick it seems very unlikely that any one party will secure an absolute majority.

Two-party *Land* parliaments of the kind which currently exist in the Rhineland-Palatinate and Schleswig-Holstein, where the CDU and SPD managed to keep both the FDP and Greens below the five per cent threshold four years ago, also seem highly improbable this time.

This year's *Land* elections can be expected to lead to four-party parliaments everywhere, with losses for the CDU and SPD and gains for the FDP and Greens.

Although this implies more coalition-seeking, tactical manoeuvres, unrest and bitter conflicts it also indicates more liveliness.

The five elections will develop their own momentum. There will be a close interplay between the specific political problems facing each *Land* and national issues. Hesse will play a key role.

Whether the other elections are dragged into the dispute over the future of Red-Green coalitions will depend on whether voters opt for a CDU-FDP or SPD-Greens coalition in Hesse.

The outcome of the Hamburg election could point in a new direction.

If Hamburg's Mayor, Klaus von Dohnanyi, (SPD) manages to secure the backing of the FDP for an SPD-FDP coalition and if the voters — which is still not clear — feel the same way a new political pattern could emerge.

All campaigns are in the shadow of the general election.

They are marked by greater uncertainty than last year's electoral decisions but may well reveal new variations of political cooperation.

Land elections are often exciting. But this year promises to be something really special.

Hermann Rudolph

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 5 March 1987)

Continued from page 2

chov's proposals are greatly to be welcomed. The Soviet leader had also noted that Russia is prepared to negotiate on short-range missiles, and deterrence would not be jeopardised "if the other threats aimed specifically at Europe were to be reduced."

By this the former Bundeswehr inspector-general means short-range Soviet missiles aimed mainly at targets in the Federal Republic of Germany.

They too must be dealt with in negotiations and the prospects of this happening were now good. Mr Gorbachov's proposal forced the West to act.

"And that is quite right in my view," General Altenburg said, "for the opportunities presented can simply not be ignored." A disarmament breakthrough was now possible.

He warned his colleagues in uniform that "the military must not stand in the way."

Thomas Gack

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 4 March 1987)



You go your way, I'll go mine . . . Mayor Klaus von Dohnanyi (left) and CDU leader Hartmut Perschau after collapse of Hamburg coalition talks. (Photo: dpa)

Hamburg coalition talks fail, so it's back to the hustings

Hamburg voters are to go to the polls, probably on 17 May. Coalition talks between the minority Social Democrat city government and the Christian Democrats have broken down.

The Social Democrats lost their absolute majority in November last year and have been hanging on ever since.

The election will be crucial for the political fate of a man who has exerted a decisive influence on politics in the biggest industrial metropolis in the Federal Republic, the Social Democratic Mayor, Klaus von Dohnanyi.

Dohnanyi said after talks with the CDU had broken down that his future would depend on the ability of the SPD to secure either a workable majority (which seems unlikely) or enter an alliance with the FDP. The FDP has no members at all in the Hamburg assembly, as it polled fewer than five per cent of the vote last time.

Dohnanyi does not even want to talk with the Green-Alternative List or the CDU. He apparently feels there would be no point. Many Hamburg SPD members clearly agree.

During coalition talks with the CDU it often looked as if Dohnanyi was the only leading SPD politician seriously interested in cooperation between the two parties.

A great deal suggested that the mayor was brought back into line by his party shortly before reaching agreement.

Both the chairman of the SPD's parliamentary party in Hamburg, Henning Voscherau, and Hamburg's SPD chairman, Ortwin Runde, had good reasons to shy away from a grand coalition.

Both openly fear that the SPD would lose votes to the Green-Alternative List at the next election if it opted for an alliance with the CDU.

For politico-pragmatic reasons additional pressure came from the party's leftwing and trade union members.

Leading SPD politicians outside of Hamburg, especially Björn Engholm in Schleswig-Holstein, were worried about their chances in their own *Land* elections if the traditional SPD stronghold of Hamburg joined forces with the CDU.

So it is hardly surprising that the disappointed CDU now wonders whether talks with the SPD were ever meant to be serious.

The CDU can by no means be certain of being any closer to power in May than it is now.

All sorts of speculation about the Hamburg election is possible. Although the FDP polled less than five per cent in the Hamburg election in November, it polled more than 10 per cent in Hamburg in the general election two months later. So its prospects of moving back into the Hamburg parliament look good.

Once again it looks as if the FDP is not going to commit itself to any one coalition partner before the election, but will join forces with whichever party helps it get into government.

But it is possible that, even with the FDP as a partner, neither the SPD nor the CDU will get a majority.

This would be the case, for example, if both get more or less the same share of the poll as in the last election in November (41.7 and 41.9 per cent respectively) and the FDP less than seven per cent.

The SPD would then have to begin new coalition talks with the Green-Alternative List or the CDU — this time without Klaus von Dohnanyi.

Even if the position of Hamburg's mayor has taken some hard knocks recently Hamburg's SPD cannot really do without Dohnanyi — there is no other charismatic personality in sight.

Tough times lie ahead for the SPD in Hamburg. For decades the city was regarded as an impregnable bastion of the party.

But its position in the city-state reflects its sorry state nationwide.

In Hamburg in particular social change has robbed the party of its traditional pillar of support, trade unionist workers.

In its reorientation the SPD has often been more greatly impaired by its own wishful thinking and reservations than by its political rivals.

What was once thought inconceivable, therefore, may become reality: the SPD as an Opposition party in its former stronghold, the city which was once represented in the Bundestag by Herbert Wehner and Helmut Schmidt.

Thomas Wolgast

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 4 March 1987)

■ NATO

General Rogers goes home after 6 years

A longstanding rumour has been confirmed by the announcement that General Bernard Rogers is to retire as Saceur at the end of June and to be replaced as Nato C-in-C in Europe by General John R. Galvin.

General Rogers has headed Nato for over six years, during which the Atlantic pact faced one of its toughest tasks yet: the twin-track missiles-and-talks decision and the deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe.

The political disputes that occurred in this connection are deep-seated and stand out in strange contrast to the gain in security America's European allies gained as a result of the decision.

Missile deployment by far outshadows all other major decisions, plans and changes that have taken place in Nato during General Rogers' term at the helm.

They include the dramatic reduction — by 2,400 — in nuclear warheads stationed in Europe, the continuation and amendment of nuclear strategy in Nato's general political guidelines, the strengthening of conventional defence capability by the wartime host nation support agreement between Washington and Bonn and the storage of equipment for six US divisions in Western Europe.



General Rogers . . . out. (Photo: Sven Simon)

General Galvin . . . in. (Photo: AP)

They also include the plans symbolised by the keyword Fofa, short for following forces attack, and the aim of raising the nuclear threshold by weaking or halting an aggressor by conventional means before his reinforcements are brought into play.

All these issues have been discussed internally and in public by Nato in recent years, and General Rogers has invariably played a leading role in the debate.

He led in calling on America's Nato allies to step up their defence commitments. He also sought to make European arguments and viewpoints understood and acceptable in America.

His words and deeds prove General Rogers to have emerged over the years as a strategist who views matters from a European rather than a primarily US viewpoint.

That has confirmed his reputation of being an awkward general if need be, and it is definitely part of the reason why he will not find retirement from his command and from active service easy.

The change-over to General Galvin will mark a change in more than the person of Nato's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

There are many signs that the Atlantic pact is entering a new phase in which it is no longer a matter of consolidating and improving its own military strength but of preventing reductions if at all possible, or at least stemming the tide.

Gone are the days when the US President and the German Chancellor could issue a joint declaration of intent to reinforce Nato, whereupon the US delegation at the autumn conference of Nato Defence Ministers submitted — within 48 hours — far-reaching proposals to boost defence capability.

This last happened in December 1984. America's political will to do more to equal or improve on Soviet arms capacity has passed its peak.

Forces in the US Congress that attach greater importance to reducing America's budget and current account deficit than to the balance of military power in Europe are gaining ground.

This is the background against which General Galvin will be taking over at the European end of Nato. He is being transferred from Panama, where he was C-in-C of the US Southern Command in the Canal Zone.

So he has experience as a supreme commander and commander-in-chief of unified commands including all three services.

As matters stand the experience and ability he has gained in dealing with other nations in the difficult political terrain of Central America should stand him in even better stead.

He is returning to Europe, where he has served in many capacities in the course of his military career: as assistant secretary to the united chiefs of staff, as military assistant to Saceur, as commander of the suppoirt units, as chief of staff of 3 Div and, prior to his Panama posting, as commanding general of VII Corps in Stuttgart.

He knows Europe and he knows, from past experience, the politicians and military men of America's allies in Europe.

They hold him in high esteem for his knowledge of European conditions and for his military flair and the instinctive still with which he deals with allied

Continued on page 5



War game: right hand checks out the left

If Nato military leaders had wanted to use their nuclear fallout shelter in Mons, Belgium, during war games this month, they would have been out of luck — the shelter is still being built.

The war games, called Wintex-Cimex, are designed to take the administrative and communications structure of Nato through a situation they would have to handle in the early stages of the next world war, with the first atomic bombs being dropped on Western Europe.

Wintex and Cimex stand respectively for winter exercise and civil-military exercise. They are held every second year by the 16 Nato countries to make sure all systems are on go.

But no troops leave their quarters and no tank leaves barracks. The aim is to test cooperation between political, military and civilian departments, to identify communications problems and to review the efficiency of decision-making procedures.

Everything is designed to involve as many authorities as possible.

The "situation" is top secret but could involve a Nato submarine being lost in mysterious circumstances, unusual manoeuvres being held near Nato borders, detonation chambers for tactical nuclear weapons being sealed at strategic bridges and mass demonstrations held in various cities bringing the political atmosphere to a head.

Wintex-Cimex is a matter of how political, military and civilian authorities are to handle the situation once the crisis is followed by a state of war and defence.

Uniform Nato military alarm stages exist at which prearranged moves are to be made. But advance planning in the civil sector varies from country to country, with emergency regulations differing.

So Nato holds these manoeuvres to find out whether not just military orders but also civilian emergency measures work.

Can the flow of refugees be kept under control? Will transport requisitioning work? Can the wounded be supplied? Will the administration remain capable of administering?

For the purposes of the exercise emergency staffs are set up to work in war conditions for a fortnight in a number of Nato countries. In Germany a manoeuvre Cabinet headed by State Secretary Schreckenberger of the Chancellor's Office operates from a nuclear fallout shelter.

At Shape computers estimate the speeds of tank units as they advance and the reserves of shells and ammunition available.

Even the weather is artificial and laid down for the purposes of the exercise.

It is most important, in the context of chemical weapons assumed to be deployed by the Soviet Union, that the course of the exercises is not left to the tender mercies of the real weather during the fortnight in question.

Dieter Ebeling

(Rheinische Post, Dusseldorf, 5 March 1987)

RHEINISCHE POST

■ PERSPECTIVE

Nazi victims recalled in White Rose ceremony

It was a moving moment in the conference room of the US Senate in Washington as two former members of the White Rose movement, Franz Joseph Müller and Anneliese Knoop-Graf, handed over leaflets to the American Holocaust Memorial Council.

The White Rose was a resistance group in Nazi Germany made up of students, scholars and artists.

Hans and Sophie Scholl were two of the movements leaders. They were arrested and executed by the Nazis 44 years before the ceremony, on 23 February 1943.

As the snow piled up outside on the Washington streets, former resistance fighters and victims of Nazi terror, American Jews and German Christians, stood side by side in the conference room with its dark-brown panelling and under an almost life-sized portrait of Senator Mike Mansfield.

The ceremony marked the inception of the White Rose Foundation, which is jointly sponsored by the American Jewish Congress and the Circle of Friends of the White Rose in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Jewish Congress is one of the biggest Jewish organisations in the USA and was already set up in 1930.

During the foundation ceremony of the White Rose Foundation the spokesman of the American Jewish Congress, Henry Siegman, said that although he had escaped from the "realm of evil" he lost many relatives and friends in the concentration camps.

Siegman described the Foundation's main task as that of seeking a dialogue with the other, the new Germany. This dialogue, he emphasised, is still in its early stages.

The former US ambassador in Bonn, Arthur Burns, a keen supporter of the idea to set up the White Rose Foundation, pointed out that only a small number of Germans rebelled against Hitler.

Many had cheered the dictator, and the majority had been apathetic and preferred to do and say nothing.

Burns frequently quoted the speech made by Bonn president, Richard von Weizsäcker, on 8 May, 1985, a speech which warns against simply forgetting and suppressing the past.

On behalf of Inge Aicher-Scholl, the older sister of Hans and Sophie Scholl, Anneliese Knoop-Graf read out a brief statement.

The statement explained how the whole idea to set up a foundation came about.

The White Rose Foundation is a response to the visit paid by President Ronald Reagan and Chancellor Helmut Kohl to the military cemetery in Bitburg in May 1985.

This visit triggered worldwide protests, in particular in the USA.

While Reagan and Kohl were in Bitburg American Jews made the demonstrative gesture of visiting the graves of Hans and Sophie Scholl in Munich and then meeting survivors of the White Rose resistance group.

Franz Joseph Müller, who attended this meeting, has given roughly 50 talks on German resistance since then in the United States.

In a short speech during the foundation ceremony in Washington he recalled the fact that the students of the White Rose movement were only a small part of German resistance.

It should not be forgotten, he stressed, that above all Social Democrats, Communists and trade unionists had challenged Hitler's regime. Over 70,000 Germans were killed for political reasons by their fellow countrymen, Müller claimed.

Roughly 350,000 Germans, he added, were punished for their action and convictions in concentration camps.

Müller will be the future spokesman of the German curators of the White Rose Foundation. Other German curators are the former president of the Federal Constitutional Court, Ernst Benda, the CDU politicians Walther Leisler Kiep and Matthias Wissmann, and the former minister of state Hildegard Hamm-Brücher.

Müller feels that the foundation's task is not just to repair the damage done by the "Bitburg disaster" two years ago.

Furthermore, the Foundation should take a firm stand against all those "who want to move out of the shadows of history" and relativise the errors of the past.

The Germans need not wander around the world as penitents.

Following the experiences during the Nazi period, however, they should make greater efforts to champion the cause of tolerance and freedom and fight against extreme rightwing conservatism.

Müller said that many American Jews he had met still had considerable reservations towards Germans.

"Many Jews in the USA," he maintained, "feel a deep desire, a kind of inner urge, to hear confirmation of the existence of 'just people' in Germany.

"In their eyes this is the first step towards moving any closer to the Germans.

"This can only be achieved via the bridge built by the German resistance across the precipice of the holocaust."

The leaflets distributed by the White Rose movement will be exhibited one day in the Holocaust Museum in Washington.

Building plans for this museum already exist, and construction work is expected to begin already in autumn this year.

Hermann Vinke

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 1 March 1987)

Continued from page 4

countries. He is also held in high personal respect for his modesty and self-discipline, especially in tricky situations.

In the circumstances the esteem in which he is held in Washington could prove even more valuable than these personal qualities.

For one he is highly regarded by his national chiefs, the joint chiefs of staff, to whom he is directly subordinate in his second capacity as commander in chief of US forces in Europe. For another he is highly rated by politicians, where the White House, the State and Defence Departments and Congress are particularly important.

Congressional backing is vital. Congress approves or rejects budget allocations without which no US forces could be stationed in Europe.

In the fourth decade of a peace in Europe that would be inconceivable without Nato, the Europeans are not alone in finding it hard to do what they realise is objectively and militarily necessary.

The United States shows signs of fatigue too. So General Galvin will have no lack of opportunities to prove his mettle.

Karl Feldmeyer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 27 February 1987)



Hans and Sophie Scholl . . . executed.



(Photo: dpa)

Hitler-plot museum becomes a memorial to the resistance

The plot to assassinate Hitler was hatched in a building in Bendlerstrasse in Berlin, the general staff of the German army.

Today Bendlerstrass is no more. It is called Stauffenbergstrasse, after one of the officers who planned the attempt. The former command building, at No. 13, has been turned into a museum.

Since 1968, the museum has portrayed events directly relating to that fateful day of 20 July, 1944, when Hitler narrowly escaped death.

Now it is being increased in scope to include the wider topic of resistance to the Nazis, of which the plot against Hitler was the most spectacular event.

Professor Peter Steinbach, a political scientist at the University of Passau and the chief scientific advisor of the project, says the aim is to show the whole breadth of opposition to National Socialism rather than just the events of 20 July, 1944.

Among the exhibition rooms are the offices used by the soldiers who organised the plot, von Stauffenberg, Mertz, Olbricht and Haeften, and the room in which General Ludwig Beck committed suicide.

Professor Steinbach says that a critical appraisal of the history of resistance in the Third Reich will enable a better understanding of the fundamental values of freedom.

This is why young people, who did not personally know Nazi Germany, are a primary target for the exhibition.

Professor Hans Peter Hoch (Stuttgart) is in charge of the arrangement of the exhibition, which is subdivided into 26 sections.

When completed the exhibition will have about 6,000 items. Thousands of photos and documents are arranged according to specific topic areas, and those who wish to go into greater detail can flick through the folders on respective topics.

One thousand five hundred items are already on display.

So far the Berlin Senate has spent DM3.5m on the project, and a further DM1.4m is to be spent.

The visit to the sections of the exhibition already completed begins with information on the destruction of the Weimar Republic and National Socialism.

This is followed by the presentation of opposition against the Nazi regime in the labour movement, by people with Christian beliefs and in the fields of arts and sciences.

The items in one room deal with opposition in exile. This leads on to the sections on liberal and conservative opposition and the beginnings of the military plot against Hitler.

The nucleus of the exhibition is devoted to the plans for the attempted coup between 1938 and 1943, Stauffenberg and the bomb plot of 20 July, 1944, plans for government and the failure of the attempted coup.

Other sections are: the Kreisau Circle (already completed) and the planned sections White Rose, *Rote Kapelle*, Wartime Opposition, National Committee *Freies Deutschland*, Youth Opposition, Opposition by Jews, Help for the Persecuted and Self-Assertion of Prisoners.

Opposition by Christians and Workers after 1939 completes this subject area. Another room will deal with the topic of Opposition in an Unjust State.

At first glance it looks as if the exhibition's concept has covered all facets of resistance in the Third Reich.

More information is provided on film, on sound recordings or via discussions in three special film presentation and discussion rooms.

The means of presentation are of utmost importance in any attempt to give the public an idea of what happened over 40 years ago.

The main media are photos, posters and all kinds of documents. This form of illustration alone, however, would not be enough.

There is a welcome variety of other sources of information such as a comprehensive general catalogue, shorter guides and topic sheets, and facsimile documentation of German resistance.

Qualified exhibition guides are available to answer queries or give talks.

There is also a lending library and plenty of film and sound recording material.

It is fair to claim that this exhibition in Berlin is *the* exhibition on German resistance.

A final assessment of its quality, however, will not be possible until all the sections have been made available to the public. The work so far is more than encouraging.

Peter Juling

(Das Parlament, Bonn, 28 February 1987)

■ EUROPE

Japan and the screwdriver factories

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Japanese industrialists have discovered a simple way of getting round European Community tariff barriers and anti-dumping levies — they open assembly plants in Europe.

Products put together in these plants, which have earned the scornful label of "screwdriver factories", are classed as European-made and can be exported from one Common Market country to another.

The Japanese company merely ships its product in parts to Europe and has them screwed together.

Japanese subsidiaries in European countries assemble photocopiers, electronic scales and bucketwheel dredgers this way.

More than 200 screwdriver factories have been set up. Miti, the Japanese Ministry of Trade and Industry, would have many more if it could.

After the successful export offensive Miti strategists plan to secure and round off Japanese progress in Europe, where about 85 per cent of high tech goods is imported from Japan, by an investment offensive.

Next year alone Tokyo plans to invest DM10bn in export markets. This move is envisaged as making Japanese industry less dependent on exports, better able to respond to the international growth in protectionism and in a better position to sidestep exchange rate fluctuations.

The high yen exchange rate, an annoying export handicap for Japanese industry, favours this programme. Tokyo also plans to give Japanese industry a financial boost to encourage it to gain an increasing foothold in neighbouring Asian countries and, above all, in Europe.

In European capitals the new Japanese challenge is viewed with mixed feelings. Investments are welcome, especially when jobs are created, and the Japanese employers' association, Keidanren, says investments totalling roughly \$2bn have already created 72,000 jobs in Europe.

At the same time Europe cannot afford to turn a blind eye to unfair competition that jeopardises the very survival of entire sectors of European industry.

The European Commission in Brussels has filed several anti-dumping suits against imports from the Far East at prices lower than those charged in the country of origin.

Anti-dumping levies have been charged on electronic typewriters, photocopiers and electronic scales from Japan —in strict compliance with Gatt rules and regulations.

But as Willy de Clercq, European commissioner for external relations, was not long in noting:

"As soon as the Community filed an anti-dumping suit or imposed an anti-dumping levy Japanese assembly plants were set up like sheet lightning in European countries to put together the very products affected."

As a rule 80 per cent (and more) of the components assembled were imported from Japan — and at prices the Brussels competition watchdogs claim are dumping rates.

When the European Community imposed higher import levies on Japanese photocopiers, Minolta promptly bought the last German firm to survive the Far Eastern onslaught, Develop GmbH & Co. of Gerlingen, near Stuttgart.

Minolta copiers can now sport the "Made in Germany" label and are no longer subject to Common Market import restrictions even though the overwhelming majority of components still comes from the Far East.

The European Commission now plans to plug at least this loophole. It has suggested to member-governments that anti-dumping levies should be imposed on components imported from the Far East too.

The proviso is that parts are shipped to "screwdriver factories" where they make up over 20 per cent of a finished product that itself is subject to anti-dumping levies.

This move is intended to ensure that Europe does not cut off its nose to spite its face. That would, for instance, be the case if imports of inexpensive components were to be generally banned. Member-countries must now decide on the proposal in the Council of Ministers.

Tokyo would undoubtedly regard any such move as a challenge. The Keidanren promptly protested against the proposed trade restrictions in Brussels and threatened to call a halt to investment in Europe.

Now the longstanding clash between Europe and America has been settled by a compromise on US maize shipments to Spain, an escalation of trade conflict with Japan seems imminent.

Thomas Gack

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 28 February 1987)

Farmers in an uproar over new plan for prices

More than 700,000 German farming families have been in uproar since the European Commission published its 1987-88 farm price recommendations.

German farmers have lodged vehement protests with the Bonn government and the National Farmers Union.

NFU president Baron Heereman, not normally upset by criticism, has felt so hard-pressed he has even threatened to resign.

The Commission's farm-price proposals are aimed, as they should be, at limiting surplus farm output and reducing subsidies.

Unfortunately, they fail to offer the farmers an acceptable solution.

Last year farm surplus subsidies accounted for an estimated DM51.5bn of the Common Market's DM78.2bn budget.

Further expenditure in individual member-countries must be added. In the Federal Republic of Germany they amounted to DM6.9bn, or 2.6 per cent of budget expenditure, last year.

The most expensive, and increasingly expensive, European Community item is the farm price support system, guaranteeing prices that have prompted regular increases in output and surpluses.

Supply well exceeds demand for cereals, milk, sugar, beef, pork and wine.

Produce is bought and stored at enormous expense. Storage capacity so enormous as to be beyond the grasp of ordinary people has increasingly been full to overflowing of late.

So the Community frequently sells stocks to other countries. The low world market prices paid are offset by levies or, put in other words, stocks are remaindered at give-away prices.

This approach is increasingly proving a serious mistake. By subsidising exports of surplus produce the European Community all but triggered a trade war with the United States that threatened to spread to industrial exports.

The situation is deteriorating by the day where some farm products, such as cereals, are concerned. Stocks currently total 15 million tonnes.

If the Community were to retain its present Common Agricultural Policy the cereal surplus would amount to 100 million tonnes in about five years.

Farm incomes

What each member of family-owned farms earned in:

1970: 13 161
1976: 25 263
1981: 21 245
1983: 26 282
1984: 21 500
1985: 26[illegible] (estimate)

8429

The outlook for wine is no less alarmingly. Unless acreage is limited the Community looks like running a 20 million-hectolitre wine surplus by 1992.

These are the figures mentioned by the Commission in arguing the case for more restrictive price policies in the years ahead.

A further easing of intervention arrangements and adaptation of price guarantees to market conditions is also considered necessary.

But how is competition to function in farming? How are German farmers to produce foodgrains at less expense than US farmers or beef at lower cost than Argentine ranchers?

Free competition would put countless German farmers out of business and the French, for instance, would not for a moment consider mass agricultural unemployment in response to an unimaginative European Community.

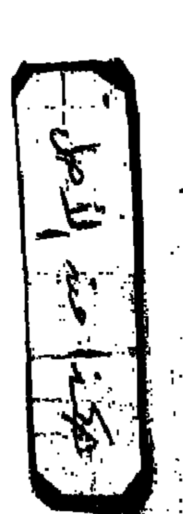
So a concept is needed that entrusts farmers with a task that at least cuts storage costs, such as large-scale afforestation and/or care of the land.

That, of course, is assuming European farmers cannot hold their own in free competition, and they can't, otherwise they would long have done so.

The Bonn government rightly criticises simplifiers in Brussels. But its criticism would sound more impressive if only it were to draw up practicable proposals for German farmers.

Henner Lavall

(Die Welt, Bonn, 3 March 1987)



■ TECHNOLOGY

Mixed views on split up of huge industrial fair



The world's largest office, information and communications technology trade fair, CeBIT, is now an exhibition in its own right.

It used to be part of the Hanover Fair, which was first held 40 years ago in 1947. But Hanover outgrew its facilities and it was decided to divide it up.

It had become the world's largest shop window for capital goods and, alongside Leipzig, one of the last all-embracing industrial fairs.

But, in 1985, when the last combined exhibition was held, many would-be exhibitors had to be turned away.

The new arrangement, which began last year, seems to be a success — the organisers think so, but some exhibitors are not convinced.

Even though a number of industries that regularly account for a substantial number of exhibitors were missing last year (they alternate with others), the two fairs combined totalled nearly 700 exhibitors more than the last old-style Hanover Fair.

That was because over 800 more exhibitors took part in the CeBIT fair than in the corresponding sections the year before. And the number of visitors told much the same tale.

This year the trend seems likely to continue, with a further 60 exhibitors taking CeBIT's total to over 2,200 and roughly 6,000 exhibitors at the traditional Hanover Fair.

On aggregate the two fairs will thus register a further increase of over 400 exhibitors, or over 1,100 more than in 1985.

They will have booked roughly 100,000 square metres, or 25 acres, more stand space than two years ago.

From the organisers' point of view exhibitor response to the new trade fair concept could hardly have been clearer.

Yet not all exhibitors like the division. There were criticism and doubts again before this year's CeBIT.

Probably the most serious objection is the argument that it makes no sense at a time when the integration of computer technology is gaining in importance for all branches of industrial and business activity.

Computers, this argument runs, have long ceased to be limited to mere data processing and storage, retrieval and transmission. They have moved into computer-aided design, engineering, manufacturing and general automation.

Several office machinery and information technology firms published open letters voicing their dissatisfaction and explaining why they were not exhibiting at CeBIT.



Putting the art into software

This is the result of 20 International artists getting together and letting their feelings become known about the new media. The exhibit is on show at *Artware 87 – art and electronics*, being held at the same time as CeBIT in Hanover. (Photo: Hanover Fair)

Some have even hinted they will not be seen at Hanover for the foreseeable future. That, of course, remains to be seen. They may change their minds.

There can, however, be no doubt that splitting the Hanover Fair in two has created problems and difficulties, as not even its most enthusiastic supporters — and they include the overwhelming majority of exhibitors — would for one moment deny.

The fair organisers hope, in conjunction with industry, to have eliminated some of these difficulties this year. Advertising for the twin-track fair has, for instance, been clearly devised.

Above all, the individual sectors represented at CeBIT have benefited from an improved and much clearer subdivision and arrangement by groups.

Yet one is bound to admit that computer-aided design and manufacturing and computer-integrated manufacturing are conspicuous by their absence.

A number of exhibitors traditionally associated with office machinery and information technology but now increasingly committed to CAD, CAM and CIM have accordingly felt obliged to exhibit at both fairs or to switch allegiance from CeBIT to the Hanover Fair. Yet both remain the exception.

Besides, the number of exhibitors is not the only argument the fair organisers can put forward in support of the new concept.

The main drawback of the old-style Hanover Fair was, as PRO Klaus Goehrmann puts it, that the range exhibited in both the CeBIT sector and communications technology had grown incomplete for lack of space.

"We ran a serious risk of forfeiting our lead in both sectors," he says, "which was why industry told us we should either have to devise a new concept in Hanover or it would sooner or later have to sound out alternative venues."

Reorganisation, Goehrmann says, has solved the problem. Nowhere can such an exhaustive range of office, information and communications technology and of microelectronics, assembly and handling technology, measurement, control and switchgear technology be seen as in Hanover.

It may be argued that this could have continued to be the case without having to split the fair into two. Extra floor space could have been provided by means of heavy additional investment.

But the Hanover Fair organisers, unlike most operators of their kind, are accustomed to paying their own way and not relying on government subsidies.

So they are bound to think more in terms of whether the additional investment would make economic sense. As it is, existing facilities can be put to better use. The alternative would have been less economic.

The pressure on accommodation and other peripheral but by no means unimportant factors has also been eased.

On balance the conclusion must, then, be that the new-look Hanover Fair concept, with a wider range of exhibits at separate fairs, is a major opportunity of ensuring for Hanover even greater international importance as a shop window of modern technology.

As with all opportunities, all concerned must put it to good use. This year's fair season will show whether they have succeeded.

Whatever happens the 1987 CeBIT and Hanover Fair should make it clear whether the new concept is a success or a failure.

Klaus Kemper

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 4 March 1987)

Continued from page 2

stances. They would do well to learn the lesson of long and bitter years of missile deployment debate.

It is that solidarity between America and Europe and joint conventional Nato defences are usually more important than the best weapon systems as a deterrent.

Frankness in negotiation and firmness in security policy are what we now need. The West must also bear in mind the maxim expressed by Mr Gorbachov as:

"The worries and interests of other nations must be understood and one's own security must not be seen as separate from that of one's neighbours."

Those who in the West are concerned about European security must take the Kremlin leader at his word: not trustingly but with self-assurance, not with bared teeth but with good ideas.

The West must not allow the Kremlin leader to be the only one to show the ability to outdo himself.

Christoph Bertram

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 6 March 1987)

■ BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL

Once-banned Soviet entry takes the big prize

The Berlin festival's major prize, the Golden Bear, has been awarded to a Soviet film that was banned for years in the Soviet Union, Gleb Panfilov's *The Theme*. It was made seven years ago and is now officially released under the new Soviet policy of openness. A Silver Bear went to an American film that is already a box-office hit, *Platoon*, directed by Oliver Stone. It deals with the Vietnam War. Both films are reviewed here.

Oliver Stone's film, *Platoon*, is the close-up of the war in Vietnam where America lost a decisive battle involving her moral authority and leadership.

The film does not provide any historical background or strategic explanations from the military. In it the world disintegrates into two parts. Distinctions can only be made in peace-time. There is only good and evil, survival and death.

There is also the ubiquitous tropical green of the jungle through which a platoon of Americans snakes it way, where the bodies of the Vietcong meld with the background foliage.

There is also the dull yellow-brown, dry clay soil that circulates around the Vietnamese villages and in the scorched air.

Then there is the colour red, the red kerchief that young volunteer Chris (played by Charlie Scheen) binds round his head, after the war spreads to his own battle unit. Chris is then ready to retaliate and kill.

Then there are the red splashes of blood on a young face and young uniform. Out of anger and indignation over the death of three comrades he had smashed the skull of a young, crippled Vietnamese.

Most of the young men in the unit are around 20 and from the lower classes. They have come to track down a Vietcong jungle camp and have to come to grips with death behind every tree and mines beneath every wood pile.

Sergeant Barnes (played by Tom Berenger) and Sergeant Elias (Willem Dafoe) are the platoon's leaders. They have been wild in the past and have walked through hell more than once.

They are strong personalities who do battle with one another like God and the Devil, and fight for their men's souls.

In war individuality is erased. None of these characters have an individuality, not even young Chris, from whose viewpoint the film's narrative unfolds.

The aim of this film is to heighten the audience's sense of identification with the emotional situation of the foot-soldiers in this war. These men do not experience war out of the air or from a safe airmchair at home, but as a reality, as an "inexplicable war" against an enemy that operates from ambushes.

Oliver Stone was barely 20 when he served for two years in Vietnam as a private soldier. His film script is based in part on personal experiences, what he has been told and imagined, as he said at a press conference at the Berlin Film Festival.

In America *Platoon* has been hailed as the first "real" film about the Vietnam War.

It is a film that works in Vietnam like a nightmare in the past. The story is told in masterly sequences, rich in imagination with an oppressive, furious dynamism.

This revitalised nightmare lays claim to truth in the exaggeration of the frames that have something of a Christ symbolism about them. From one of the first frame onwards one is slightly reminded of this to the death of Sergeant Elias, seen from two different standpoints.



Death lurking behind every tree in *Platoon*. (Photos: AP)

There was nothing to compete with *Platoon* at this year's Berlin Festival. It was a unique film experience.

But Gleb Panfilov's *The Theme* apparently won much sympathy and outstripped Stone's production.

Panfilov, 40, came to the Berlin Film Festival with his wife for the première of *The Theme*. His wife has been his leading lady in several of the six full-length films he has made.

The film, made seven years ago, has benefited from the spectacular liberalisation in Soviet attitudes to films.

Panfilov said at a press conference in Berlin that there is at present a commission examining the censor's rulings on films over the past few years.

Even before the Berlin première the film had sold well abroad, only East Germany, according to Panfilov, had shown no interest.

The Theme, that won the Golden Bear in Berlin, has a rare quality about it, a kind of intelligent, refined humour. Panfilov deployed a simple narrative style, quiet and distanced with a narrative descant that hovers between irony and involuntary comedy.

The first person narrator is a promi-

Continued on page 11



Simple style, intelligent humor in *The Theme*.

Main winners

A Soviet film, Gleb Panfilov's *The Theme*, has won the Golden Bear at the 37th Berlin Film Festival.

The 11-man international jury, chaired by Austrian actor Klaus Maria Brandauer, awarded a second Golden Bear to Czech director Pavel Koutsky for his short film, *Curriculum Vitae*.

Silver Bears were awarded to *Platoon*, directed by Oliver Stone; and *God's forgotten children*, by Randa Haines, both from the USA; and the Hungarian production, *Diary for My Lovers* by Marta Meszaros.

The award for the best short film went to *Luxo Jr*, directed by John Lasseter and Bill Reeves. Ana Beatriz Nogueira from Brazil was named best actress for her performance in *Vera*.

The best actor award went to Italian Gian Maria Volonté for his performance in *The Moro Affair*.

The special jury prize went to *Das Meer und das Gift*, directed by Kei Kumai from Japan.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 4 March 1987)

Disappointment at German efforts: the non-starters were better

The German contributions to the Berlin Film Festival were unexciting — that goes for both East and West German.

In the competition itself (some films were outside the competitions) the only compelling German-language film was Straub's *Tod des Empedokles*, but that was a special case.

Jeanine Meerapfel's *Die Geliebten* tells the story of a Yugoslavian-born German girl who is a television reporter.

On a visit to her home in Montenegro she meets a German musician, Peter, who is trying to trace his father whom he suspects of having shot partisans and hostages during the war.

The ambitious, busy young woman, who now has few connections with her origins, cannot quite understand the tormented attempts by a German to understand his German past.

But this difference does not get in the way of the subsequent love story.

Jeanine Meerapfel won a reputation for being a sensitive film-maker with *Malou*. Her latest film stars the coarse Barbara Sukowa and the charming Horst-Günter Marx, and is filmed against a Montenegro backdrop.

But towards the end she piles one dramatic and stylistic bungle on top of another, which the unusually patient audience eventually greeted with mockery.

Meerapfel is herself so prejudiced against Peter's honourable intention that suddenly the audience's sympathies are with the criminal father of the past. When Peter, faced with his father's horrible deeds, is blown to pieces in an old minefield, the audience cynically applauded.

So viele Träume by Heiner Carow from East Germany honestly tells the story of a midwife who eventually gets to know her daughter who had been given away when she was tiny.

Der Tod des Empedokes by Jean-Marie Straub and Danièle Huillet goes too far. Straub has always worked with barren, you could say mind-expanding, material. He has here give up every camera movement, be it tracking shots or panning. The Hölderlein text on the Sicilian countryside was spoken by non-professionals and almost mangled. Many in the audience got up and left.

Under other circumstance, outside the stress of a festival perhaps, one would have a different view of this film, not just shrug one's shoulders about it and turn away.

Compared with Straub's last film, the wonderful *Klassenverhältnis*, based on Franz Kafka's *America*, this film seemed to be a sorry production.

The pleasing German films to be seen in Berlin were outside the competition, such as *Der kleine Staatsanwalt*, by Hark Bohm, who makes films for children and young people.

Bohm, who was himself once a lawyer took as his theme the investigation and court case involving economic crime.

Hamburg building and finance brokers set up a front company, that goes bankrupt in order to set off a swindle in millions.

The public prosecutor König, played very impressively by Bohm himself, gets on the track of the plot and gives a condensed version of the court proceedings.

Bohm, who wrote the script for his film himself, leads the layman through his complicated story excellently so that all the time the audience can fully understand what is going on.

Legal jargon, the police and construction company situation are portrayed exactly and the audience followed the humorous, exciting story with audible pleasure applauding many scenes.

Der kleine Staatsanwalt is a splendid example of using a forensic theme for film material. (On the fringe of the Berlin Festival Norbert Kückelmann, also a lawyer and film-maker, said mischievously that he would be filming the donations-to-party-funds scandal.)

Jürgen Böttcher, from East Germany, produced a 45-minute documentary in the international forum for the new generation of film directors entitled *Die Küche*, about the male and female workers in a large works canteen in a Baltic shipyard.

The steam, the noise and heat generated in the mass production of meals are all mixed together in this finely observed film, evoking an image of an inferno.

You see it all in the knowle... ...that it begins all over again the ne... Sisyphosis comes to mind.

Sebasti... ...eldmann

(Rheinische Post, Düss... ...March 1987)



■ MUSIC

Floating to a Buddhist paradise on the sounds of fang yan kou

That non-European music has become more widely known in music centres on the Continent is due in no small measure to the work done by the Extra European Arts Committee

The Committee is an association of the most important cultural organisations in European.

The united efforts of institutions in Paris, Geneva, Milan and the International Institute for Comparative Music Studies in Berlin have resulted in the first performances in Europe of Buddhist music from China.

The first concert of Chinese temple music was presented in the Berlin Academy of the Fine Arts with traditional ritual music, developed in the fifteenth century in Peking's Zhihau Temple.

This Buddhist musical tradition was passed down from generation to generation, apparently unaffected by secular musical change.

Young boys, inducted into the temple society at the age of 12, undergo seven years of intensive training in the repertoire of the ceremonial music.

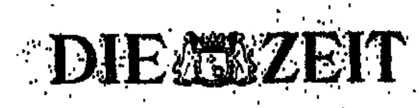
They become accomplished performers in three types of Zhihau temple music; the Jing music, the speech-song of the ecclesiastical texts and the ritual music for wind instruments (oboe, flute, sheng), and percussion instruments, drums, large and small cymbals and small gongs.

The first Berlin evening concert include music from the Buddhist tradition, the second traditional music from China.

The music in these concerts was fascinating in its originality, spiritual dignity, the withdrawn quality and economy of the Buddhist music, and the surprisingly rich tones of the ritual ensemble music.

The evening was opened with a condensed version of the "Oblation ceremony to the famished spirits." This was a 45-minute-long vocal and instrumental piece in seven parts. Basically ceremonies of this kind are not confined to the Buddhist tradition.

Buddhism became an influential force in Chinese society in the 4th century



AD. These ceremonies focus on Asian religious world wisdom that is self-evident in the religious-philosophical movements of the three Asian beliefs, Taoism, Confucianism and Buddhism For instance the belief in permanent creative replenishment and the unity of heaven and earth, into which, according to the words of Lao-Tsu, mankind is incorporated.

Accordingly there is no strict division between living and dead spirits. This belief also includes the recognition of the two spirits of man, the one grants mankind life, the other his personality.

These spirits live long after death, taking care of those remaining behind on earth — on condition that offerings were proffered them.

If this did not happen, if there was an error, their relatives would suffer and could become magis, sorcerers.

The Budhist ceremony *fang yan kou* puts such knowledge in concrete terms. This is devoted to a spirit spouting fire, insatiably hungry, "as thin as a twig, its neck as thin as a needle."

Today these ceremonies are among the most important Buddhist ceremonies in China and are performed outside the temple walls.

With the assistance of the monks, families who have invited the monks, hope to free the spirit of the dead person from otherworldly suffering, from purgatory, who can then be led over into the Buddhist paradise, Amirabha.

In these ceremonies the Buddhist chant is made up of a solo voice with instrumental accompaniment, or choral chanting from groups of monks.

Cymbals and a handbell are struck in unison by top-ranking monks with the chant that has the nature of a litany together with the muffled beat of an horizontal drum. The chant rarely goes outside the span of the octave.

It is unlike the Buddhist chant in Japan, the shomyo, which reaches the top limits of the register. This is a national form of ritual chant.

Obviously the richness of instrumental colour in the Chinese tradition is incomparably greater.

By degrees the quietly paced chant broadens out with the beat of nine small gongs, that are suspended like a Turkish crescent.

Then the unexpected happens. The vocal-instrumental music extends suddenly to instrumental music alone. For five minutes oboes, flutes, sheng and percussion instruments produce a melodious sound of paradisial beauty.

With virtuoso playing the flutes ornament a glittering bass motif of sheng and oboes.

Gongs and large drums advance the music, that has no metrical system.

The music, like Korean court music, goes fast and slow from phrase to phrase.

Traditional music in the widest understanding of that term, chiefly music for traditional instruments such as the egg-shaped flute, the oboe, the sheng and two-string violins, was given on the second evening in the Academy.

Many of the pieces were played with leading notes, tonally without form but with a virtuoso display by the instrumentalists that showed the brilliance of the musicians but was no longer in the best traditions of Chinese music.

Both concerts in the Academy were sold out and many fans of non-European music were unable to get admission.

These can console themselves with the knowledge that the Berlin Institute for Comparative Music Studies plans five other "festivals of traditional music," music from Greece and Yugoslavia, music from the Bantu tribes of Africa and from Bangladesh, as well as a festival of puppet-plays and marionettes from Thailand, China and India.

Wolfgang Burde

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 20 February 1987)

Continued from page 10

nent dramatist and winner of many prizes. He is played by Michail Ul'janov. We get to know him on a trip to the provinces, where, together with his colleague, he proposes to spend a creative holiday in the home of a woman who is a literary enthusiast.

He dawdles and grumbles and is endlessly worrying about his gout. As an author he is completely frustrated.

In the small town he gets to know a young, cultivated woman, Sascha. She is the first person to tell him some unpleasant truths about himself to his face, but who nevertheless seems to like him.

Kim, the dramatist, is excited, but also excited for Sascha's discovery of a village poet, unrecognised who died in extreme poverty. Kim gives up his plan to drama-...e the Song of Igor, and gives his atten-... the unrecognised genius.

Hi... ...al interest is, however, Sascha, but the ques... is whether he can do justice to the poet, ... is whether he can win back his old, ...interested ... clear-sightedness.

Brigitte Desalm

(Kölner Stadt-An... Cologne, 2 March 1987)

Kassel festival blazes a feminine trail

The number of festivals devoted to music by women increases all the time. In West Germany alone last year there were festivals in Munich, Hamburg and Heidelberg, devoted to various musical aspects from rock to classical music.

The event in Kassel was devoted to contemporary women composers, as were similar events in Cologne in 1984 and Amsterdam in 1985.

It is astonishing that two Kassel women, interested in new music, decided to show what women composers had done.

Their efforts have been rewarded. The concerts were well attended. Many women travelled to them and they were well covered by the press, radio and television.

It looks as if it is simpler to stage such a festival in Kassel than in Cologne or Amsterdam.

Women's music festivals notoriously suffer from a lack of cash, because women's music does not make a good enough show to attract large sums of money.

This is different in Kassel. Risky festivals are regarded as essential cultural events in Kassel, and funds in plenty are provided by the city, the federal state and central government.

There is the other side to the coin, of course. Unlike other events of this sort the male hand was much in evidence and official ostentatious display.

The festival poster showed the outline of a woman's head with a background of musical notes, that also filled her open mouth. The poster included the words: "Freed from silence."

Men thought up the design and the slogan, and made their presence felt.

This festival showed that the time has come to give thought to alternative forms of a festival, devoted to music by women, that can create demand.

The two women who initiated the festival believe that music is not specifically devoted to either of the sexes, and they did not find limiting the adjustments they made to make to male norms.

It was surprising to see just how professional the organisation in Kassel was, from procuring money to advertising, interesting the media and the running of the organisation generally.

No-one can calculate just how much work all this involves, but if it were not for private initiatives of this kind the public would be totally unaware of music composed by women.

Obviously with so much music as there was in Kassel some was spontaneously delightful, some controversial and some in plain terms unacceptable.

The public did not applaud everything just because the works were composed by women.

The Frankfurt "Belcanto" Ensemble of Dietburg Spohr had the greatest success presenting works with female themes even when these women composers would have nothing to do with feminism.

In her composition for five female voices Korean composer Younghi Pagh-Paan expressed sorrow for women who did not even have their own given names in male-dominated Confucian society.

A true example of anti-male music was *...es kamen schwarze Vögel* from Adriana Hölszky of Romania. With all their might five female singers produced sounds that were a far cry from belcanto singing. The composer said that they were like five witches "who are up to mischief."

Jana Haimsohn's performance would have given meaning to a panel discussion on women's asthetics. She comes from New York and her energetic vocal and physical acrobatics was very different from male artistic performances.

There was a series of chamber concerts with very mixed players and programmes, eked out by regional female and male performers with more or less interesting programmes.

The Leonardo Quartet and the Clementi Trio set high standards for quality.

Belgian pianist Robert Groslot caused indignation. He performed two compositions by his wife, Jacqueline Fonteyn, passably well, but he handled compositions by Grazyna Bacewicz, Ada Gentile, Elisabeth Lutyens and Germaine Tailleferre coldy and arrogantly.

The all-women Syrinx Saxaphone Quartet did not have much of a stage presence, but their tone quality loosened up the dry series of chamber music concerts.

Attractions of the festival were a choral concert with the Cologne choir mistress Elke Mascha Blankenburg, the Cologne boys choir and the Clara Schumann Orchestra, the first all-female orchestra in the Federal Republic.

The interpretive quality of the Oratorio by Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel and the psalm compositions by Lili Boulanger did not get across the spirit of what was behind the music, women performing music by woman.

The festival's high-point was the chamber opera *Joy* by Susanne Erding, which showed talent and sophisticated craftsmanship.

The score was a little ornate but was a sign of things to come.

Women are advancing to storm the last male bastion.

Gisela Gronemeyer

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 25 February 1987)

■ MEDICINE

Alzheimer's disease breakthrough: genetic factor identified

DIE WELT

German, Australian and US molecular geneticists have made a major breakthrough in identifying the causes of Alzheimer's disease, a combination of slow mental degeneration and physical decay from which five to 10 per cent of people aged over 65 suffer in the Federal Republic of Germany.

They have not only identified a molecule characteristic of the parts of the brain affected by this slow but progressive decline; they have also isolated the corresponding gene.

Chromosome 21 is apparently to blame. The molecule is evidently split off at a preliminary stage widespread in human cells.

Alzheimer's disease, first described by a German doctor, Alois Alzheimer, in 1907, has so far only been definitely identified by post-mortem examination of the patient's brain.

In some patients up to 40 per cent of nerve cells in the brains were found to be either damaged or destroyed. Bundles of tangled fibre, neurofibrillar bundles, were found in the damaged cells.

Concentrations of an amyloid protein substance known as neuritic plaque were found in the nerve cells' vicinity.

The more frequent these deposits are in the brain, the more serious the signs of the disease. Damage mainly occurs in parts of the brain that are important for memory functions.

The disease thus leads to a slow loss of memory and orientation. Total mental decline sets in within years. Patients usually die of complications resulting from being bedridden.

The plaque consists of two different substances, an anorganic aluminium silicate and a protein known as A4.

Molecular geneticists associated with Professor Konrad Beyreuther and Professor Benno Müller-Hill of Cologne University genetics department, Professor Karl-Heinz Grzeschik of Münster University and research scientists at the University of Perth, Western Australia, have now isolated and identified the structure of the gene that is responsible for producing the A4 molecule.

The gene was found to contain the information for a long molecule consisting of nearly 700 amino acid components including the 43 components of A4.

The signs are that this preliminary-stage molecule is contained in the protective membrane of healthy nerve cells.

The scientists have shown that the gene forms part of chromosome 21 in man's genetic make-up. It is a chromosome that occurs three times (instead of twice) in patients with the so-called Down syndrome, or mongolism.

All Down syndrome patients show symptoms identical to those of Alzheimer's disease between the age of 35 and 45.

For some years several forms of Alzheimer's disease have been known to exist. In addition to the general form, investigated by the German and Australian scientists, there is a hereditary form that occurs in certain families.

The gene that hands it down and triggers the disease has now also been shown to be based on chromosome 21. It is not yet known whether the two genes are one and the same.

The Cologne molecular geneticists suspect A4 of occurring both in neuritic plaque and in the neurofibrillar bundles within nerve cells. But this surmise is still controversial.

American geneticists have shown the A4 gene to occur in various cells in the human body and in various species of animal. So it appears to be extremely widespread and to fulfill an important function.

The next step will now be to check the circumstances in which the short A4 part of the long molecule is split off and why it is enriched and deposited in certain parts of the brain. In addition to genetic causes various other factors have been blamed for Alzheimer's disease.

It was, for instance, suspected of being due to an unknown virus, to too high an aluminium count in tap water, to too low a blood supply to affected parts of the brain or to upsets in chemical processes in the brain.

There are grounds for all these suspicions, but the newly-identified gene may prove the hub of the disease. That would improve the prospects of early diagnosis and treatment.

Ludwig Kürten

(Die Welt, Bonn, 24 February 1987)

Eye complaint 'an early Aids symptom'

Berlin findings confirm an American doctor's claim that an eye complaint known as cotton wool spot is an early Aids symptom, ophthalmologists were told at their Wiesbaden congress.

The US doctor who first noted the link, Gary N. Holland, reported his findings at a 1984 ophthalmologists' congress in San Francisco.

After infection by cytomegaloviruses, which include HIV, the Aids virus, inflammation of the retina or light "cotton wool" spots at the back of the eye occurred.

Doctors who come across this complaint must bear Aids in mind. Aids victims who showed signs of this symptom were certainly in trouble, Dr Holland said.

Eighty-one per cent of Aids patients with the cotton wool eye defect died, whereas only 44 per cent of Aids patients without this additional symptom died.

Research at the Steglitz University Hospital in Berlin has borne out these findings.

Professor Barbara Schmidt told the Wiesbaden ophthalmologists' congress the eye complaint could no longer be assumed to occur only in the late stages of Aids and thus to be of no diagnostic value.

Steglitz doctors had found that Aids could be diagnosed in the eye long before other characteristic immune deficiency symptoms appeared.

The telltale signs may include small white spots, exudates or cotton wool spots, on the retina, inflammation of the optical nerve and corneal herpes.

These symptoms occurred in other

Continued on page 13

Drug successful in trials with Parkinson's disease victims

Lisurid, a drug long used to treat hormone complaints in women, may form the basis of a new approach to treating Parkinson's disease, says a Berlin firm.

Clinical trials have resulted in striking improvements among patients almost immobilised and bedridden, says Reinhard Horowski of Schering, the Berlin drug firm best known as the pioneer of oral contraceptives.

The drug might, he told a company Press seminar in Berlin, supplement treatment with L-Dopa, which had seriously side-effects when taken by Parkinson patients over a period of years.

In Parkinson's disease, first described by a British doctor, James Parkinson, in 1817, the brain cells that produce a substance known as Dopamin almost totally break down.

No-one knows just what accounts for their breakdown. Various causes have been suggested, including environmental factors.

Dopamin is a neurotransmitter and relays nerve stimuli from one cell to another. Dopamin deficiency leads to impaired movement, short steps, stooping gait, shaking and rigidity.

Treatment of between 150,000 and 200,000 patients suffering from Parkinson's disease in the Federal Republic of Germany has so far been possible using L-Dopa, usually in combination with other substances. L-Dopa is a preliminary stage of Dopamin and is converted into Dopamin in the body.

Patients' lives return almost to normal after this treatment, but its *effect* declines markedly after about five years, Dr Horowski says, and patients can be totally immobilised in a matter of minutes.

In such cases Lisurid is said to have brought about a dramatic improvement, it being particularly important to note that Parkinson sufferers are not hopeless cases.

With the aid of a pump their lives can be brought back almost to normal. This treatment is unsuitable for patients who are very old or suffering from dementia or are liable to psychoses.

Sixty patients have been clinically treated, using the Lisurid pump, in Madrid, Rome, London and Aachen. Further trials on 200 patients are planned.

An application has been made to the Federal Health Office in Berlin to license Lisurid as a treatment for Parkinson's disease.

The application has been ma... for the drug in tablet form. Severa... ars of trials will be needed before ... in solution can be considered.

dpa

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, ... February 1987)

■ EDUCATION

Exhibition reveals phalanx of electronic aids, but teachers aren't impressed

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Electronic teaching aids loom so large at Didacta, the Hanover educational trade fair, that German schools might seem to have abandoned paper and printing entirely in favour of celluloid and the microchip.

That is a misleading impression. Most schools have already invested in any computer-aided systems they plan to introduce. Funds are limited and computer firms are happy simply to keep a foot in the door.

The equipment with which children are familiarised at school is an important means of gaining acceptance and access to the much more lucrative private market.

Having said that, the electronic age is impressive. Visitors to Hall 22 might be excused for imagining they were being given a preview of part of next month's Hanover Fair, the world's largest full-scale industrial fair.

The camera homes in on the continental United States at breakneck speed, settling for part of the west coast of Florida. Seconds later we see the white sand on the beach and a bath towel with a human body sunning itself on it.

We see the sunbather's right hand and the crater landscape of his skin. The camera penetrates his epidermis to reveal his genetic structure, the twin-spiralled rope ladder of human chromosomes, further magnified to reveal individual atoms and their nuclei.

The entire cosmos, from outer space to the atomic nucleus in a matter of seconds? No trouble at all. Switch on the video recorder, slip in the cassette.

Presentations of such technological wonder worlds seem more in keeping with the full-scale Hanover Fair than with a world mostly associated with blackboards and textbooks.

Yet the exhibition stands advertise the names of internationally-known firms and present the most expensive and advanced machinery in an unbroken array of superlatives.

The only difference between the two fairs is, arguably, the public. The men and women who with the impatience of busy industrial executives tour stands chock full of complex computer equipment, CNC machinery and other kinds of high tech furniture are almost entirely teachers.

At first glance the onlooker might be excused for imagining, as he may have done at previous Didactas, that schools are increasingly being transformed into batteries of computer workstations.

Electronic teaching aids seem to be on the market for each and every subject. Siemens, for instance, have a fully computerised programme for advanced-level physics at Bavarian high schools.

Even the uninitiated can follow the progress of the course — and still visualise it as physics — as one graph after another flashes on to the monitor screen.

At the Philips stand a young woman is playing the piano on a typewriter keyboard. The notes appear on a king-sized monitor screen and are printed out simultaneously on computer manuscript ...per.

...e the connection is less immediately ap... remind...nt. It is probably advisable to school mu...ple that this is a latter-day ...

Appear...sson. ...are deceptive. Many teachers hav... ...sfied their curiosity about computers and their uses. Schools have spent most of their budget for teaching aids.

"We are now aiming more at heads of department," spokesmen at computer manufacturers' stands explain, "and heads of department check with us to see whether we have new programs to offer.

"Most schools have already opted for a computer system. Given the general decline in funds available for education, business at this year's fair is unlikely to boom."

Yet computer salesmen don't look downhearted. Business needn't boom at Didacta; sales to a handful of schools hardly matter in terms of turnover.

The private market is where the money is to be made, and it is crucially important to keep a foot in the door by selling systems to schools where future users can familiarise themselves with them.

Educational book publishers report tentative signs of declining teacher interest in electronic aids. "It's still early days," says a spokesman for Schroedel Verlag of Hanover, "but there is definitely a trend back to books."

The spokesman was reluctant to commit himself, understandably so after the pasting educational publishers have taken in recent years.

They have had no choice but to look on as the market declined, without the slightest opportunity of remedying matters by even the most imaginative strategy.

At present there are roughly ten million schoolchildren in the Federal Republic; by the end of the decade numbers will be down to about eight million.

Publishers were vehemently criticised by parents and politicians when they overenthusiastically sought to issue a new generation of textbooks doing justice to the latest academic trends in curricula.

A particularly striking example of the innovations that triggered protest was a German grammar for 10-year-olds that explained the plural of the word *Nußknacker* (nutcracker) in the following terms:

"The basic morpheme (/Nußknacker/) is replaced by the plural morpheme, the so-called zero morpheme (/0/), resulting in a plural form identical to the singular: /Nußknacker/ + /0/ Nußknacker." Yes.

Parents can be forgiven for wondering what that all means. What it refers to is surely less complicated!

The plural of nutcrackers in German is the same as the singular. Unlike the English word, it is basically a singular form, so there is a plural. Similar configurations occur with words like scissors or sheep.

Many people might feel even this explanation is far too complicated for 10-year-olds. Most German teachers have certainly abandoned such progressive ideas and reverted to more traditional grammars.

The backlash is even more striking in scientific subjects, where greater importance is clearly now attached to natural description than to the intellectual approach and to methodical criticism at any price.

"I couldn't tell wheat from rye," one student teacher recalls, "yet my biology teacher was already giving me a guilty conscience by telling me that we had a surplus of both while people were starving in Africa."

This student teacher, leafing thoughtfully through a book enabling pupils to identify plants, is typical of the trend away from the intellectual approach and back to nature.

At senior school parents can easily pay over DM200 a year, or even DM300, for school textbooks for a son or daughter.

It is hardly surprising that publishers are under heavy pressure not to issue new books too often. If the same textbook is in use for five years books can then be handed down from one child to the next.

Publishers for their part have long moaned about cultural federalism in the Federal Republic, where *Länder* are individually responsible for education and the arts and jealously emphasise this privilege by insisting on different textbooks.

In some *Länder* a wide margin in textbooks is considered desirable, whereas others (usually the *Länder* where textbooks are supplied free of charge) will hear nothing of wide margins.

Schoolchildren in Hesse are allowed an illustration of the human body, male and female and complete with skin, in textbooks used for sexual education. In Bavaria preference is given to diagrams.

Baden-Württemberg Education Minister Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder once revised regulations so drastically that an educational publisher in Lower Saxony had to practically rewrite 29 textbooks during the summer holidays.

Understandably, publishers are keeping their fingers crossed, regardless of party-political preferences, that there will be no change of government in Hesse.

The rewriting it would require would unquestionably be a daunting task.

Another trend has taken publishers by surprise. Pupil, not staff, pressure seems to be instrumental in the return to favour of longer, even complete texts rather than extracts in readers.

Gone, or so it would seem, are the days when a few lines of Thomas Mann were all that was needed to discuss the "writer's ironic detachment from his description."

A German teacher says it would probably be an exaggeration to claim that pupils want to read more, but those that do read prefer these days to read complete texts.

The advent of electronic media at school has not been without effect on traditional textbooks. Authors have grown accustomed to the idea of books accompanying audio-visual material and vice-versa.

Many new editions, especially of scientific textbooks, include cross-references to possible computer demonstrations.

But publishers are still reluctant to go in for computer programs of their own, much to the chagrin of Education Ministers who would like to see their ambitious electronic development schemes backed up by publishers' logistics.

"You can cost a book," a publisher explains. "It makes a profit from a print run of about 20,000. But we'd never make ends meet with programmed floppy disks.

"We would invest in development only to see programs pirated at school, leaving us high and dry. Besides, some schools use Commodore, others Apple hardware, while Bavarian schools frequently prefer Siemens computers.

"The different systems would simply cost more to cater for than we can afford with our research and development budget."

For simplicity's sake publishers tend to encourage teachers to make up their own software, feeling that doesn't amount to serious competition.

Teachers who attended this year's Didacta with hopes of taking home bright ideas and practical assistance tended to feel disappointed.

"I can learn more from my pupils than from what they have to offer here," one teacher said.

"The equipment is impressive but for the time being all it does is add to the manufacturer's kudos. You can't really say we derive direct benefit yet."

Reinhard Urschel

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 February 1987)

Continued from page 12

complaints too, Professor Schmidt said, but they were uncommon in otherwise "healthy" patients who might be HIV-positive but had yet to contract Aids.

They were, moreover, symptoms hard to associate with other complaints and ought accordingly to be noticed by any ophthalmologist.

Cotton wool spots, occurring mainly at the rear pole of the eye and not on the periphery, must be taken as a possible sign of immune deficiency, especially when diabetes mellitus could be ruled out.

Corneal herpes had for some time been known to be a possible pointer to Aids if it occurred in a manner at all unusual.

Professor Schmidt referred at the Wiesbaden congress to observations of a handful of Aids patients, but she felt the link was so clearly established that she called on ophthalmologists to consider Aids as the cause of any such otherwise unexplained changes in patients' eyes.

More detailed tests were needed before eye damage could be widely used to diagnose Aids. A link would, for instance, have to be established in a larger number of cases.

Consideration would also need to be given to how many HIV-positive patients suffered from eye damage and whether these symptoms really preceded an outbreak of the full and so far fatal disease.

The connection between eye complaints and early symptoms of Aids was noted more or less by coincidence at the eye clinic in Steglitz.

A healthy patient with minor eye defects appeared one day at the clinic, and as his symptoms failed to fit other complaints he was Aids-tested and found to be positive. In other words, he unknowingly had the virus.

It later became virulent. Several similar cases were noted. One Aids patient identified in this way has since died.

The symptoms could subside and vanish, Professor Schmidt said. She mentioned a case in which the spots vanished but the patient later suffered from Aids.

She was unable to account for the connection in her paper to the Wiesbaden congress. Findings were too new. She and her staff were working on their first publications.

It would, for instance, be interesting to see how many HIV-positive patients contracted eye complaints and how many went on to suffer from the full outbreak of Aids.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 February 1987)